

REMARKS

By this paper, claim 24 has been cancelled and claims 25, 26, 27, 28 and 32 have been amended. Additionally, new claims 33-40 have been added. Accordingly, claims 25-40 are pending.

In the outstanding Office Action dated December 28, 2004, claims 24-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Schon (6,682,519). Additionally, claims 29-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schon and Revane (5,064,014) and claim 32 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schon in view of Fleischacker, et al. (5,098,392). Claims 27 and 28 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

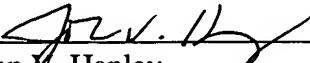
Although the Applicant does not agree with the rejection of the claims in view of the cited art, claims 27 and 28 have nevertheless been rewritten in independent form for the purpose of passing this application to issuance. More specifically, claim 27 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations set forth in claim 24. Claim 28 has been rewritten in independent form and has been renumbered as new claim 33. In view of these amendments, it is believed that each of the pending claims now define patentable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has attempted to respond to each and every rejection set forth in the outstanding Office Action. In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the application be reconsidered, the claims allowed and the application passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP

By: 
John V. Hanley
Registration No. 38,171

JVH/mmw
Howard Hughes Center
6060 Center Drive, Tenth Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90045
Tele.: (310) 824-5555
Fax: (310) 824-9696
Customer No. 24201
84731.1